

From the Upper Chamber



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Tuesday, February 20, 2007

The twenty-second day of the 2007 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**.

Senator **Don Thomas** of the 54th stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Sen. **Chip Rogers** of the 21st moved that the Senate reconsider its actions on Senate Resolution 20.

The motion to reconsider passed by a vote of 46 to 6, and SR 20 was returned to the Senate general calendar.

Senate Bills 166-171 and 173-183, SR 279-280, 282, 283 and House Bills 24, 76, 151, 231, 325, 388, 402 and 403 were read for the first time and assigned to committees. The clerk of the Secretary then read the reports of standing committees and second readers.

After the morning roll call, Lt. Gov. **Cagle** recognized U.S. Senator **Saxby Chambliss** on the Senate floor.

Sen. **Joseph Carter** of the 13th then took the rostrum to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. **Carter** introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Dr. **Glenn Martin** of First United Methodist Church in Tifton, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

Lt. Gov. **Cagle** introduced Sen. **Chambliss**, who took the rostrum to greet the Senate and speak about several issues affecting the state, specifically the PeachCare shortfall.

Sen. **Vincent Fort** of the 39th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to discuss the proposed Georgia Power pipeline route, which may affect his constituents.

Sen. **John Bulloch** of the 11th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to recognize today as Future Farmers of America Day at the Capitol.

Sen. **Kasim Reed** of the 35th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to ask for a moment of silence in honor of Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd and the recent passing of his nephew.

The Secretary read SR 271, which commends the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) and recognizes today as "PAGE Day on Capitol Hill." Sen. **Dan Weber** of the 40th took the well to speak to the resolution, thanking the association for all of its hard work.

Lt. Gov. **Cagle** recognized Speaker of the House **Glenn Richardson** on the floor of the Senate.

Sergeant-at-Arms **Lorenzo Wallace** escorted Senators **Chip Pearson** of the 51st and **Rogers**, and their guests, to the rostrum. Sen. **Pearson** took the rostrum to introduce Giovanni Castellaneta, U.S. Ambassador to Italy, and Honorary Consulate of Italy Angela Della Costanza Turner.

SR 272-274, 276-278, 281 and 284-291 and House Resolution 257 were then read and adopted.

Lt. Gov. **Cagle** recognized former Sen. **Susan Cable** of Macon on the floor of the Senate.

The Senate Local Consent Calendar, consisting of SB 126 and HB 190, was adopted by a vote of 51 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 81, which provides for a special license plate commemorating 100 years of boy scouting. Sen. **Pearson** took the well to give a brief history of the Boy Scouts of America.

SB 81 passed by a vote of 47 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 97, which requires defense lawyers to make specific objections to jury charges in a criminal trial. Sen. **Bill Hamrick** of the 30th took the well to explain the bill.

SB 97 passed by a vote of 50 to 1.

The Secretary read SB 79, which increases the maximum punishment to one to 30 years, up from one to ten years, for attempting to commit a crime. Sen. **Hamrick** took the well to speak to the bill.

SB 79 passed by a vote of 51 to 1.

The Secretary read SB 92, which gives the Department of Revenue the authority to collect, compile and maintain retail sales tax data showing separately retail sales made within

each county, as well as showing separately retail sales made within the limits of a municipality.

Sen. **Pearson** took the well to explain the bill and Amendment 1. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Regina Thomas** of the 2nd, **Preston Smith** of the 52nd, **Weber** and **Don Balfour** of the 9th.

The Secretary read Amendment 1a by Sen. **Weber**, who then took the well to explain the changes made by the amendment. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Balfour**.

Amendment 1a was adopted by a vote of 32 to 1.

Amendment 1 was adopted as amended by a vote of 47 to 0.

The Committee Substitute was adopted as amended by a vote of 44 to 0.

SB 92 passed by substitute by a vote of 49 to 4.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th moved that the Senate stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 21.

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